

I believe that the treatment of this case should remain consistent with the Code, and that *mitra* Linnaeus should be adopted as the valid name of the species in preference to *episcopalis*. I note also that this would make no difference whatever in the recognition of the genus *Mitra*. The valid name of the type-species would become *Mitra mitra* (Linnaeus.)

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF *PHELSUMA ORNATUM*
GRAY, 1825 TO THE OFFICIAL INDEX. Z.N.(S.) 1752
(see volume 23, pages 176-177)

The nomenclature committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists unanimously opposes this application.

It appears untoward for an author to request the suppression of a valid specific name, with an extant holotype, in favour of his own recently published junior synonym, especially when the holotype of the senior taxon was continually accessible in one of the world's largest collections.

It is axiomatic that even the most capable zoologist occasionally makes a mistake. Such a mistake is not to be interred by exercise of the plenary powers of the Commission unless application of the provisions of the Code would disturb stability or universality or cause confusion (Art. 79). This petition demonstrates neither disturbance nor confusion, but at most embarrassment of the petitioner.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *HIPPOCAMPUS*
ERECTUS PERRY, 1810. Z.N.(S.) 1753
(see volume 23, page 178)

The nomenclature committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists opposes this application.

Ginsburg 1937, (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 83 : 566), commenting that Perry's description of *Hippocampus erectus* agreed best with that of *Hippocampus punctulatus* Guichenot, noted that it agreed fairly well with that of *Hippocampus hudsonius* De Kay, but possibly represented some other form such as *Hippocampus kincaidi* Townsend and Barbour. Ginsburg concluded that "there is no means now of determining with absolute certainty what *erectus* actually represents." Briggs, 1958 (*Bull. Florida State Mus.* 2(8) : 167) used the name *erectus* in place of *punctulatus*. Therefore, if the name *erectus* is to be suppressed, it would seem that such suppression should be in favor of *punctulatus* rather than *hudsonius*.

Thus, this application requests the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to rule, not on a question of nomenclature, but on a question of taxonomy: the identification of a certain fish from a published description and figure. This the Commission may not properly do. As is stated in the Preamble of the Code (1964 : 3), "... none [of the provisions of the Code] restricts the freedom of taxonomic thought or action."

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *CELLIA ERRABUNDUS*
SWELLENGREBEL, 1925. Z.N.(S.) 1760
(see volume 23, pages 190-192)

By John E. Scanlon (*Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)

I have been engaged in a study of the genus *Anopheles* in south-east Asia for approximately four years and agree with the zoological conclusions of the applicants, namely: 1. that *errabundus* Swellengrebel is not related to *Anopheles philippinensis*; 2. that *errabundus* is not part of the Oriental fauna; 3. that *errabundus* is a senior synonym of *Anopheles darlingi* Root, 1926.